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Letter dated 19 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text entitled "Statement by the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) — the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan — in connection with the signature of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms", adopted on 8 May 2010 at an informal meeting of heads of CSTO member States (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate this as a document of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 96, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**

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Statement by the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) — the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan — in connection with the signature of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms

The States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) welcome the signature of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms. They consider this agreement to be an important component of the international security architecture that reflects the substantial contribution of Russia and the United States to the cause of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The principle of equal and indivisible security is the cornerstone of the new Treaty on Strategic Offensive Arms. Strict parity has been maintained in all of its provisions.

The new Treaty replaces one of the most significant disarmament agreements in history: the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START Treaty). The START Treaty played a historic role in the maintenance of international peace and strategic stability and security. It served as a foundation for the establishment of a qualitatively new atmosphere of trust, openness and predictability in the process of reducing strategic offensive arms, which is reflected in the new Treaty.

In addition to the Russian Federation and the United States of America, the other States parties to the START Treaty were the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan and Ukraine. The historic role of that Treaty would have been incomplete without the significant efforts undertaken by those States to implement it, or without their full compliance with the commitments assumed under the 1992 Lisbon Protocol. The voluntary renouncement of nuclear weapons by the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan and Ukraine, and their accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as non-nuclear-weapon States, had a beneficial impact on strategic stability as a whole.

The CSTO member States underline the importance of the Joint Statement of 4 December 2009 by the United States of America and the Russian Federation on the Expiration of the START Treaty, which reaffirms the security assurances enshrined in the Budapest Memorandum of 5 December 1994 for the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan and Ukraine.

In view of the expiration of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, the CSTO member States note the crucial importance of the inseparable link enshrined in the Treaty between strategic offensive and defensive arms, and the increasing importance of this interrelationship in the process of strategic offensive arms

reduction. The Treaty was concluded on the basis of the current levels of strategic defensive systems in the Russian Federation and the United States, and a change in these levels entitles each Party to determine its further participation in the process of strategic offensive arms reduction.

We are convinced that any build-up of non-nuclear strategic offensive arms will have a negative impact on international security and strategic stability. The CSTO member States call for continued discussions between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on a whole range of issues related to the establishment of non-nuclear intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarine-based ballistic missiles.

The CSTO member States believe that the new Treaty will help to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime, expand the disarmament process and make it more multilateral in nature. The CSTO member States call on all nuclear-weapon States to join the efforts of the Russian Federation and the United States of America, and to make a more active contribution to the disarmament process.

Moscow, 8 May 2010